

## CLAIMS

1. An input peripheral (1) for a computer or the like, the peripheral comprising a movable portion handled by the operator and fitted with electrical sensors suitable  
5 for generating electrical signals for sending to the computer in response to movements imparted to the movable portion by the operator, the peripheral being characterized in that the movable portion comprises a shell (4) connected to a stationary base (2) by means of  
10 joint means configured arranged to allow all possible movements of the shell (4) relative to the base (2) with the exception of movement in translation in a direction substantially perpendicular to the support plane of the base (2).  
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2. An input peripheral according to claim 1, characterized in that the joint means comprises a connection element (5) having a first end (6) co-operating with the shell (4) to provide a spherical type connection, and a plane second end (8) slidably received against a plane surface (9) of the base (2).  
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3. An input peripheral according to claim 2, characterized in that the first end (6) of the connection element (5) is spherical and is received in a complementary cavity in the shell (4).  
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4. An input peripheral according to claim 2, characterized in that the first end (6) of the connection element (5) and the shell (4) includes co-operation means to allow the shell (4) to move about an axis contained in a plane parallel to the plane surface (9) of the base, while uniting the connection element (5) and the shell (4) in rotation about an axis perpendicular to said  
30 plane.  
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5. An input peripheral according to claim 3 and claim 4, characterized in that the co-operation means comprise studs (21) extending in an equatorial plane of the spherical end (6) parallel to the plane surface (9) of  
5 the base, the studs (21) extending through grooves (24) in the spherical cavity (7) of the shell (4) allowing the shell (4) to move in rotation about an axis contained in the equatorial plane.

10 6. A peripheral according to claim 3 and claim 4, characterized in that the co-operation means comprise fluting (30, 31) with curved flanks extending between the shell (4') and the first end (6') of the support element (5').  
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15 7. An input peripheral according to claim 2, characterized in that it includes a first slider (10) mounted to slide on the base (2) in a first direction (14) contained in a plane parallel to the plane surface (9) of the base (2), and a second slider (15) slidably mounted in the first slider (10) to slide along a second direction (16) also contained in said plane and perpendicular to the first direction (14), the second slider (15) including means (20, 24; 33, 34) for centering it on the support element (5).  
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8. A peripheral according to claim 2, characterized in that the support element comprises an anisotropic resilient member (5") bearing firstly against the plane surface of the base and secondly against the shell, being suitable for bending elastically in directions parallel to the plane surface (9") of the base (2").  
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35 9. An input peripheral according to claim 1, characterized in that it includes return means (22, 23) for returning the shell (4) towards an equilibrium position.

10. An input peripheral according to claim 7 and claim 9,  
characterized in that the return means comprise helical  
springs (22) extending between the base (2) and the  
5 second slider (15).

11. An input peripheral according to claim 7 and claim 9,  
characterized in that the return means comprise a helical  
spring (23) extending between the shell (4) and the  
10 second slider (15), and including one end held stationary  
against the shell (4) and one end held stationary against  
the second slider (15).

12. An input peripheral according to claim 1,  
15 characterized in that it includes a member (100) for  
controlling an additional degree of freedom.